

CIRENCESTER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of a Meeting of Council held in the Bingham Gallery, 1 Dyer Street, Cirencester, at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 12th June 2007.

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs S A Alexander – Mayor
Councillor G T Adams – Deputy Mayor

Councillors: Mrs C Braidwood
P A Braidwood
A N Curry
H G C Gray
R Hughes
Mrs S A le Noury
D J Nash
Mrs B A Potter
Mrs M S Rickman
Mrs K M Yarrow

Andrew Rennie Crook - Town Clerk
Clive Sherwood – Deputy Town Clerk
Johan Newman – Personal Assistant

The Council's pledge was read by the Mayor.

18.08 APOLOGIES

None.

19.08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were received.

20.08 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Tuesday, 15th May 2007 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor subject to Minute No. C12.08 to be considered under confidential matters.

PART TWO
CONFIDENTIAL

C21.08 COUNCIL MINUTES
C22.08 PERSONNEL

See Confidential Minute Book.

RESOLVED that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it was advisable in the public interest, that the public and press be excluded and they were instructed to withdraw at 7.05 p.m.

The public and press were then asked to rejoin the Council Meeting at 7.08 p.m.

23.08 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor advised that she had attended the Churn Family Fun Day at St. Michael's Park on 20th May 2007 at which over 3,000 people attended. The Mayor also attended an art competition on the subject "Towards a Vision for Cirencester" at Cotswold District Council on 8th June and was awarding the prizes on 13th June.

The Mayor also drew attention to the Newsletter that had been circulated at the meeting, with particular attention to the documents required by the office and the training sessions available.

24.08 QUESTION TIME FOR ELECTORS

None were received.

25.08 QUESTION TIME FOR MEMBERS

None were received.

26.08 RESOLUTIONS MOVED ON NOTICE – STANDING ORDER NO. 19

None were received.

27.08 GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

No questions were asked of this authority.

28.08 COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL

The following question was received from Councillor Mrs S le Noury: -

"Is there any possibility, in this new Civic Year, that our District Councillors could, in Council Meetings, bring to our attention decisions that impact on this town and therefore on our role as Town Councillors?"

Response:-

Members may wish to discuss the best way forward in respect of this question and accordingly it is suggested that the item be placed on the Agenda for the Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 24th July 2007. This will enable Members to consider their arguments and debate the matter fully before committing the Council to a course of action.

There was no supplementary question from Councillor Mrs S le Noury who agreed that the matter be placed on the agenda for the meeting to be held on 24th July 2007.

29.08 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Members were reminded by the Clerk that at the Annual Meeting on 15th May 2007, it was: -

"RESOLVED that the following Members be appointed to serve on the Planning Committee for the time being and that the issue be re-visited at the Council Meeting on 12th June 2007: -

*Councillors: Mrs S A Alexander
H G C Gray
R Hughes
Mrs B A Potter"*

The Clerk stated that with a view to ensuring that the Committee could be quorate on 24th May 2007, Councillor Mrs C Braidwood was co-opted to the Committee. Members were recommended to ratify the co-option of Councillor Mrs Braidwood and hold over on consideration of the full Planning Committee until such time as the co-optees have made their declarations.

RESOLVED that: -

- a) the co-option of Councillor Mrs C Braidwood to the Planning Committee be ratified;**
- b) the consideration of the Planning Committee membership be held over until the next meeting of Council when the co-optees will have made their declarations.**

30.08 PROJECT BOARD

The Chairman of the Project Board, Councillor D J Nash, outlined his report of the meeting held on 21st May 2007 (a copy of which is appended to the signed Minutes).

It was noted that the potential loss of income at the Kingshill Lane Sports Development Site was due to mindless vandalism, which would have cost implications to the Council Tax payers.

With regard to appointing Members to work with the Chamber of Commerce on the issue of Christmas Lighting. It was suggested that different Members represent the Council at each meeting as each Member had their own knowledge and skills on the subject.

RESOLVED that: -

- a) the report be noted;**
- b) the Chairman of the Project Board, together with the Clerk/Deputy Clerk nominate such persons as appropriate to work with the Chamber of Commerce on the issue of Christmas Lighting.**

31.08 SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNTS PAID 1ST APRIL TO 31ST MAY 2007

Members received the above schedule of payments made during the period 1st April to 31st May 2007.

The Responsible Finance Officer explained that the schedule was discontinued approximately 3 years ago at the request of the Council. However, it has been identified by the Auditor that the schedule should be introduced and authorised at each Council Meeting.

RESOLVED that the Schedule of Accounts Paid from 1st April to 31st May 2007 be approved and noted.

32.08 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS - ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON 5TH TO 7TH OCTOBER 2007

The Clerk stated that approval and a volunteer were sought for a Councillor to attend the above conference in Bournemouth on 5th to 7th October 2007.

Councillor D J Nash advised that he had represented the Council in the past and would be pleased to attend in October.

RESOLVED that Councillor D J Nash represent Cirencester Town Council at the National Association of Local Councils Annual Conference on 5th to 7th October 2007.

33.8 TWINNING ARRANGEMENTS

The Clerk reminded Members that the 25th anniversary celebration of the signing of the Twinning Charter in Itzehoe was taking place in October this year and that the anniversary of the signing of the Twinning Charter in Cirencester is to take place in 2008. Authority was accordingly sought for representation from Cirencester Town Council to attend in Itzehoe in October 2007.

The Responsible Finance Officer advised that the cost would be taken from the civic purposes budget, as the Local Government Act (S.176) allows for this type of expenditure.

RESOLVED that the Mayor, her husband and Councillor Mrs B A Potter represent Cirencester Town Council at the 25th anniversary celebrations in Itzehoe in October 2007.

34.8 CIRENCESTER OPEN AIR SWIMMING POOL ASSOCIATION

The Clerk advised Members that they were invited by the Association to visit the Cirencester Open Air Swimming Pool as Cirencester Town Council is the freeholder of the site. The Clerk suggested that the visit be arranged in July after the new Town Clerk, Mr A Tubb, had taken up post at the end of June.

RESOLVED that Members provide the office with dates in July when they are unable to attend and that the most suitable date be identified.

35.8 REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES

Councillor Mrs S A Alexander advised that she had attended a meeting of the C & S Bowly Almshouse Charity and that her report was on the notice board.

Councillor Mrs B A Potter advised that she had attended a meeting of the Stratton School Governors.

Councillor D J Nash advised that a meeting of the Cotswold Council for Voluntary Service. He also attended a meeting of the Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils at which concerns were expressed with regard to Post Office Ltd not allowing post offices to close during lunchtimes or through quiet periods. This is due to the fact that they are competing with other businesses but would impinge upon rural post offices. The Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils was accordingly writing to the County's MP's and Westminster asking that sub-post offices may apply individually for exemptions from this obligation. Councillor Nash sought Cirencester Town Council's support for this course of action.
RESOLVED that Cirencester Town Council give its full support to the Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Towns Councils in contesting the Post Office requirement that rural post offices open for particular hours and that the Council write to the Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils to confirm its support.

Councillor Mrs S A le Noury advised that she had attended a meeting of the Cirencester Infant School Governors.

The Clerk reported that he had attended a meeting on 1st June 2007 with the Gloucestershire Constabulary along with Councillors R Hughes and D J Nash and the Deputy Clerk in accordance with the provision of the contract entered into between the Town Council and the Gloucestershire Constabulary on 1st April 2007. The Clerk reminded Members that the Council had

resolved that £22,500 be identified in the budget for 2007/8 for the enhancement of policing in Cirencester, subject to a clear audit trail. Subsequent meetings would be on 1st August 2007 and 1st October 2007 and a Police Officer would be making a presentation at the October Council Meeting.

The Clerk also reported on the meeting that had taken place on 6th June 2007 regarding the "Chesterton Project". He was pleased to report that the meeting was attended by members of the public from the Chesterton/Park Wards with the support by 6 Town Councillors, representatives from Cotswold District Council, Gloucestershire Constabulary, the Youth Service and the Churn Project. Discussions took place on problems such as petty vandalism, under age drinking, disturbances, dog fouling and lack of play equipment. The Clerk advised that a number of suggestions were made with regard to the above concerns and that a further meeting was to be held in July. He wished the Project every success and hoped that it would eventually be included in the Market and Coastal Towns Initiative.

36.08 MATTERS IDENTIFIED FOR CONSIDERATION AT FUTURE MEETINGS

The following items were put forward for inclusion on future agendas: -

- Consideration of a trial to reduce the operating hours of street lights
- Planning Committee
- Working Group with representatives of the Cirencester Chamber of Commerce regarding Christmas Lighting – Terms of Reference
- Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils – Nominations for representatives to the County Committee
- Setting up of a Play Areas Working Group with the principal task being to consider the plans for the play equipment at Abbey Grounds Play Area so that plans can be submitted to English Heritage for approval by the autumn
- Abbey Grounds/St. Michael's Park – Management Plan (Currently being drawn up by Cotswold Archaeology)
- Norman Arch – Vivat Trust still pursuing the options appraisal – report not expected before the end of the summer

The meeting closed at 7.45 p.m.
Alexander

Councillor Mrs S A

Mayor